Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, November the 1ſt. 1681.

Jeſt. ALMOST admirable Invention I vow! a *true Proteſtant* Bagnio, do you ſay?

Earn. Yes, a *true Proteſtant* Bagnio, I ſay, where, for a Teſter you may be rub'd and waſh'd, and ſweated, till you have no more Whig-Plot in you, than there is in the back of my hand.

Jeſt. And where's this famous place?

Earn. At one Mr. *Rub*, or *Lett*, or *Hinderances*, or ſuch a like name, at the ſign of the *No Proteſtant Plot*, in *Whig-Lane*.

Jeſt. Me thinks it would have been better at Mr. Mayors, who they ſay has hang'd Sir *E. B. Godfrey* upon his Sign poſt: But are they provided already of Barbers and Rubbers for the purpoſe.

Earn. Yes, there's Mr. *E. E.* who rub'd Juſtice *W.* at *Colledges* Trial behind his Back, there's the famous *L. M.* who has had the good luck never to be believed upon his Oath; there's Mr. *Z.* who becauſe a Depoſition he would have ſworn before Juſtice *W.* againſt the *E.* of *S.* would not be taken, he being ſo notoriouſly infamous, in great wrath and indignation he is reſolved to turn Barber to the Bagnio.

Jeſt. Nay, he's a notable Shaver, I promiſe you; let him alone, he'l trim their Whiskers, and comb their Perukes for them to a Cows thumb, beſides, a world of People they call *Ignoramus*'s.

Earn. But if you talk of Rubbers and Whiskers, theſe's Mr. *Lee*'s man *Swinger*, he's a whisking Rubber for you, he's to be the Maſter Rubber, he can rub one man into two.

Jeſt. That's a Miracle, man, He's better than *Care*'s white *Bull* of St. *Edmunds Bury*, that uſed to be ſtroaked by the Ladies in order to great Beſſies.

Earn. Ay, or the famous *Newington*, or *Moorfield Bull*, that uſed to ſtroak the Ladies for the ſame purpoſe.

Jeſt. Well! *Care* has ſo cured me in the belief of Miracles, that nothing but ſeeing's believing with me.

Earn. Why, then you ſhall ſee it preſently; for though Popiſh Miracles are ceaſed, yet I aſſure you Fanatick Miracles are not.

Jeſt. Nay, I know they can make a man a Whore, but to make one man into two, that's Tranſubſtantiation Sir, and muſt be a Popiſh Myracle.

Earn. Let it be Popiſh or Whiggiſh, Mr. *Swinger* has done it. Look you here's a Relation of it in print; for you muſt know, that as 'tis ſaid, t'other day one Mr. *Smith* came over in a Letter from *Divelin*, with a new Sham-plot, and brought with him one Parſon *Jack*, and Dr. *Harris* to the Bagnio, and preſently *Swinger* fell to Rubbing Parſon *Jack*, and did it ſo artificially, that immediately he fell into two as Subſtantial Witneſſes of a Sham-plot, as ever you ſaw ſince you were an inch-long, and now Mr. *Parſons* and Mr. *Jack* walk about the ſtreets vouching the ſaid Sham-plot, as plain two diſtinct men, as you may ſee in the *No-proteſtant Plot*, pag. 33. as before they were but one Parſon *Jack* in *Smith*'s *Diſcovery*, pag. 2.

Jeſt. I met them indeed at *Kid*'s *Coffeehouſe* tother day; but what pity it was, that Mr. *Swinger* did not undertake the other; he's almoſt two already, *Harris*, alias *Harriſon*; now might he with eaſe have rub'd him into three men, Mr. *Doctor*, Mr. *Harris*, and Mr. *Harriſon*.

Earn. All in good time, he has all the game in his hand, all the Trumps and Swabbers, you cannot tell how he may handle the matter yet.

Jeſt. But this Rub of multiplying men will ſpoil his caw I doubt; for do you think the Tory-folks will not ſay, Nay! he that can make two men out of one, may make a hundred lyes out of his Fingers ends?

Earn. Come, ſhall we rub Mr. *Swinger* a little about the Gills?

Jeſt. Ay, come let's, He blubbers and colours like a Turky Cock, let's take him by the Snout.

Earn. He tells you in his Title, that there is no ſuch thing as a *Proteſtant Plot*.

Jeſt. Who ſays there is? but may there not be a Fanatical Whiggiſh Plot for all that? but how does he prove it?

Earn. E'n by another; for his whole Libel is nothing elſe but a Plot to diſaffect the Kings Subjects againſt his Perſon and Government. As for Example, he publiſhes to the Nation, that the perſons under reſtraint and accuſed for conſpiring againſt the King, are altogether innocent; and, *that the Executing ſuch is the ready way to cauſe ſuch as are loyal to waver in their fidelity, and if they apprehend themſelves in danger, to fly to unlawful means for defence and ſhelter.* And if that ſhould not do the job, that then Divine Vengeance will undertake their Quarrel; and, *that therefore it becomes both the* King, *and all that are lovers of the ſtability of his* Throne, *to tremble in the belief of thoſe Judgments which it will provoke a righteous and Univerſal Governour to inflict upon a Nation, where Innocency is no Defence againſt hired and forſworn Raſcals*, pag. 4. Look here, the King is tacitly accuſed of deſigning to Exerciſe a premeditated Injuſtice, and Cruelty upon Innocent perſons, and threatned with a Rebellion and divine Vengeance into the Bargain; Oh brave *No Proteſtant Plot*.

Jeſt. Well! if this be true Divinity, the Fanaticks have reaſon to tremble I am ſure, in the belief of thoſe Judgments, which they have provok'd the Righteous and Univerſal Governor to inflict upon them, for the guilt of ſo much innocent blood as was ſpilt by them, where the Innocency and inimitable Piety of their lawful Sovereign was no Defence againſt ſuch Covenanting perjur'd Villains, to protect him from being murdered by them, and I would gladly ſee any thing that looks but like the ſhadow of a Reaſon, why the Son ſhould truſt the ſame perſons, and the very ſelf-ſame Principles and practices that deſtroy'd his Father, and would have made him as glorious a King too, if righteous Heaven had not interpoſed, and reſcued him by Miracles from their cruel and bloody hands. Sure the Act of Oblivion does not oblige us to forget how many thouſands of theſe true Proteſtants, were aſſembled at *Worceſter* for that purpoſe; ſome of which have been no ſmall ſticklers of late to head and encourage the ſame Party.

Earn. Verily and in good deed-law Mr. *Swinger* takes immortal pains to rub up the people into a hatred of his Majeſty and the Government; he tells them, Good people, *the King ſuffers his Miniſters, eſpecially thoſe who have been exaſperated by the proceedings of Parliament, to render his Authority a Cloak to their malice*, pag. 4. But d'ye mark me my Maſters, theſe Courſes will hazard the ſtability of his Throne, and pull down Judgments upon the Nation; for, pray mind that, my Maſters, *hardly ever any conſiderable* Peer *of whoſe innocency the minds of the People were poſſeſt, was deſtroyed and overthrown, but it was attended with ſome* ill effect *either towards the* Government, *or the* Miniſters *that ſat at the Helm and adviſed it*, pag. 5. And what is all this, but to poſſeſs the minds of the People, that there is a certain fatality or ill Deſtiny which muſt befall the Government, if thoſe perſons, who he tells them are innocent, ſhould be found guilty; and in effect, to ſtir them up to popular Commotions and Seditions.

Jeſt. It is juſt as much as if Mr. *Swinger* ſhould ſay, Gentlemen, if things go on at this rate, there's no remedy, but we muſt e'n draw our Swords once more, and ha'th'other bout with the Government, and theſe Evil Counſellours; for what can he mean by the *ill Effects* that muſt attend the Government and Miniſters, but a downright Rebellion or Inſurrection?

Earn. Well, but he goes on and tells you, *That to charge a Conſpiracy upon Proteſtants againſt the* King, *is to ſuppoſe them Fools as well as Traytors*, pag. 7.

Jeſt

Jest. Nay, if that supposition will do him any good, we'l ne'r fall out about the matter, they shall be Fools as well as Traytors, Knaves and Madmen too, if that will please him; to think at this time of the day, when the whole Nation is broad waking, to catch us napping as Mosh took his his Mare. But pray, what is his reason why we must take them for Fools as well as well as Traytors?

Earn. Oh Sir! *if they had no regard to the Obligations of Conscience*, yet out of stark love and kindness to themselves, they must be loyal to his Majesty.

Jest. Nay, what Obligations a Fanatick Conscience has upon him to be Loyal, is I think better known than trusted. What was it, that broke through all Obligations both Civil and sacred, but a Fanatical Conscience? What is it that makes a Fanatick so scrupulous in *abhorring the traitrous Position of the lawfulness of taking up Arms against his Majesty or those Commissionated by him*, but a tender whiggish Conscience? What has inspired the *Elephant*, *Janeway*, *Vile Care*, *Curtis*, and that hopeful budding *Mercurius Anglicus Baldwin*, to make so bold with his Majesty and his Ministers, to defame, libel and calumniate them at the rate of a thousand a year, but this same pack-horse Conscience? and I warrant you Mr. *Swinger* here, is a man of as loyal a Conscience as ever was rip'd over a til'd-house.

Earn. But you will not understand him: He's Loyal, and so are all the Party he tells you, out of love to themselves.

Jest. That is, they are as loyal as the fear of being *Colledg'd* will give them leave. Oh this damn'd Law of *making words Treason!* pag. 15. if it were not for that, he would out of pure Conscience, Loyalty and Love to himself have told the People the King was,--- Ay marrie was he.

Earn. Nay, he does as good as tell the World so, *pag.* 10. and 11. for having divided the Nation into two parts, Protestants and Papists; *there is a nothing*, saith he, *more familiar with the* Papists, *than when they are imbark'd in designs against the Government, to raise a noise and clamour of the Conspiracies of Protestants*, &c. then presently he subjoins, *that while a prince is made believe that he ought to be afraid of those of one side, he will find himself necessitated to place a confidence in those of the other.* See what an excellent Expedient he has found out to perswade his Majesties Liege People that their Sovereign is Popishly affected, that he confides in that Party; for adds he, *as one Party decays in his Favour, the opposite will always grow and rise.* Can you make English of this now without a Construing Book?

Jest. Nay, he's a pure Rogue to roast, I'le say that for him; but let's set the matter right a little; for whatever Mr. *Swinger* may think on't, there is a numerous, honest third sort of People in the Nation, besides the Papists and his Protestants, a peaceable, innocent and Loyal sort of Christians, the Original genuine *Protestants of the Church of England*, who never yet had the least blot of Disloyalty in the pure Ermin of their Scutcheon; to these his Majesty may bend his gracious inclinations, they may rise in his Favour, he may put confidence in them, without fearing any Plots, when both the Papists and their spurious brood of Jesuited King-killing Fanaticks, may deservedly decay in his Esteem. And no doubt were the Loyal and steddy Principles of these true Church of *England* Protestants, as thoroughly understood by other Princes as they are by his Sacred Majesty, they would think themselves happy in such Subjects, and endeavour, as he does, to countenance, encourage, support and protect them, both against Papists, and factious unquiet turbulent Sectaries, who ruin the reputation of the Reformation by calling themselves *Protestants*.

Earn. What do you think now, if Mr. *Swinger* should be a Jesuit himself, who may thus endeavour to embroil us, as for any thing I know, St. *Laurence*, if the story be true, might do in *Ireland?* He gives a Character of one, which changing Holy Church for Good old Cause fits himself to a hair, pag. 14. *One who pronounces it lawful to slander or defame any man whom he conceives to have done him an injury, or to be an Enemy to the Good old Cause.* For I pray what is his whole Libel but slanders and defamations of the Kings Evidence, and scandalous reflections upon the King and his prime Ministers.

Jest The best Jesuit of 'em all cannot out-do him.

Earn. And has not the Government a fine time on't, think you now, to be libel'd, calumniated, traduced, and the Rable 'lood to worry it as tyrannical and unjust, for using only the legal ways of self-preservation against Treasons and Conspiracies?

Jest. Well! but he tells you some fine stories of a Collonel and a Letter intercepted which miraculously drop'd into the same hand again, and of a Paper written by *Fitzharris* to his Wife the night before his Execution, declaring the Innocency of those he had before accused, &c.

Earn. If he had told us he found it under an old Hedg, I should have believed it as authentick, after all the spirting and tampering that has been with that poor silly Woman.

Jest. Certainly *Fitzharris* must be a most wonderful man; first, a *Traytor in grain*; then so great a *Saint*, that *all true Protestants were bound to pray for him*, and the united skill of the Party employed to save him, then a Villain, a Rogue, a Devil and all that again, for making such a confession to the Dr. of the Tower, and standing to, and owning it at his death; and now by a Miracle Mr. *Swinger* has rub'd and chaf'd the Quarters of his reputation to life again, and he's like to be both a Saint and Martyr, for writing a Letter so many weeks after his Death.

Earn. Nay, for Shamming commend me to Mr. *Swinger*, if he had been bound seven years to the Devil he could not have been more his Crast-master.

Jest. Why? will any body believe, if there had been any such thing as this Letter from *Fitzharris* to his Wife, that Dr. *Hawkins* would not have had it scalding hot, in answer to *Fitzharris*'s confession, which the Fanaticks took such pains to sham, when this Letter would alone have done it in the twinkling of a Broomstick?

Earn. Well! after all this vilifying the Kings Evidence, which heretofore was the sure sign of a Papist, I would gladly be satisfied in one important point, and that is, what a kind of Ostrich Faith they must have, who can believe, that the Evidence, whom he accuses of Subornation and Perjury, should so palpably betray themselves, and voluntarily confess their guilt in that very particular, which above all others, had they been guilty, it most highly imported them to conceal, whereas he makes them tell every body they meet, that they were to be suborn'd and perjur'd. But still I commend him for one thing.

Jest. What? for commending himself?

Earn. Yes, he lives amongst ill Neighbours, that's a plain case; *for my self*, quoth Mr. Swinger, *I defie the invention and malice of all the witnesses, having not only a testimony in my self of most sincere Loyalty to the* King *and Government, but having also as many witnesses of it, as I have had either the Honour, or an occasion to be known unto.*

Jest. That any man who before had such a stock of Loyalty and reputation, should thus prodigally waste it at one throw at Hazzard! for I dare be bold to say, that after this unfortunate chance, none but such as himself will believe he has one cross or pile either of Loyalty or Reputation left, to keep the Devil out of his Pocket.

Earn. Well, shew him fair play however; and join Giblets with him, in measuring the truth of his whole Libel from this standard of his own, according to his Loyalty and Reputation, let him be believed in the whole. Now the Arguments of his Loyalty are principally these; That he endeavours to render the King suspected to his People, 1st, of Popery and inclining to Papists against Protestants; 2dly, of Injustice and Tyranny in suffering his Ministers to abuse his Authority against Innocents; and consequently 3dly, of Cruelty and want of Judgment thus to suffer himself to be imposed upon by those about him; nay 4thly, even of Confederacy in these horrid subornations which he talks of, while he publishes a Deposition of Mr. Z. of *June* 23. 1681 for truth, *That* Mr. Ivy *had acquainted the said Z. that the King had appointed the E. of H. my L. H. my L. C. and Mr. S. to be a Committee to give assurances of Pardon, and to allow gratuities to all that would swear against my L.* Shaftsbury, *and that there is a Presbyterian Plot*, pag. 25. and, if after all this and much more as bad or worse, if any persons can be so far deserted of common Understanding, to believe this Fellow has either Loyalty or Reputation, they may easily believe the rest of his abominable lies, falshoods and forgeries.

Jest. He may call this sincere Loyalty, but for my part, I think it is *Colledgism*, and that a man may have the Reputation to be hang'd for such Loyalty.

Earn. If this be the Loyalty of Fanaticks, I think there needs no greater Testimony of a Fanatical Plot than this very Libel, which undertakes to prove there is none by the very same Methods which Dr. *Oats* has sworn, the Papists made use of, to carry on the Popish Plot, *viz.* 'disaffecting 'the People against his Majesties person and Government 'as Arbitrary, Unjust, and Tyrannical: and if these be certain signs of a Plot, we need go no further for Evidence of a Plot of Fanatick Protestants, or that Mr. *Swinger* is one of the principal Conspirators by his own voluntary and public Act and Deed, attested by Mr. *Lett.*

Jest. Well! speed you, Mr. *Swinger*, with your sincere Loyalty and Reputation, but let me advise you as a Friend to keep your self out of harms way, for you have e'n made a Rod for your own---.

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